

BENTON CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL
Benton, Illinois 62812
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 19, 2024

The Board of Education of the Benton Consolidated High School District #103 met in Regular Session on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 5:30 P.M. in the District Board Room. President, Mark Minor called the meeting to order.

Mark Minor opened in prayer and Mitch Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: Mark Minor, President; Marci Glover, Secretary; Robin LaBuwi, Stacia Sloan, Jay Copple and Mitch Bennett. Board members absent: Shane Cockrum.

Others present: Benjamin Johnson, Superintendent; Sean Docherty, Principal; Ron Giacone, Board Attorney; Kenise Head, Recording Secretary; Jennie Ren, Student Council Representative; Visitors: Amy Kolodziej, Aaron Lewis, Kyle Bacon, Carrie Fuson, Kiley Cox, Courtney Cox and Aaron Price.

4. (CLOSED) EXECUTIVE SESSION

4.1 Appointment/Compensation/Discipline/Performance of Personnel

4.2 Collective Bargaining* Added by President Mark Minor

Robin LaBuwi made the motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Appointment, Compensation, Discipline, and Performance of Personnel and Collective Bargaining matters. Jay Copple seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

The Board; Benjamin Johnson, Superintendent; Ron Giacone, Board Attorney; and Kenise Head, Recording Secretary entered into an Executive Session in the executive board room at 5:31 P.M.

Open Session - The Board reconvened in an Open Session at 6:52 P.M. Marci Glover, Secretary called the roll. Answering present: Marci Glover – yes, Robin LaBuwi – yes, Jay Copple – yes, Stacia Sloan – yes, Mitch Bennett – yes and Mark Minor – yes. Board members absent: Shane Cockrum.

Others present: Benjamin Johnson, Superintendent; Sean Docherty, Principal; Ron Giacone, Board Attorney; Kenise Head, Recording Secretary; Jennie Ren, Student Council Representative; Visitors: Amy Kolodziej, Aaron Lewis, Kiley Docherty, Carrie Fuson, Kiley Cox and Courtney Cox.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- 5.1 Approve Minutes: Special Board Meeting Minutes, November 14, 2024**
Executive Board Meeting Minutes, November 14, 2024
Regular Board Meeting Minutes, November 19, 2024
Executive Board Meeting Minutes, November 19, 2024

5.2 Approve Financial Report (November 2024)

5.3 Approve Payment of Bills (November 2024)

5.4 Review/Approve Final Reading Board Policy Updates Issue 116

5.5 Review/Approve 1st Reading Board Policy Updates Issue 117

5.6 Approve Sunday, February 2, 2025 Dance Team and Colorguard Competition

5.7 Approve Prom at RLC and RLC Facility Use Agreement for April 12, 2025

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS

Mr. Johnson commented on the following:

- BCHS school publication is complete and should be in mailboxes by mid to late January.
- Building committee met with OMNI Energy Partners about potential work in the future.

Mr. Docherty and Mr. Miller both provided a written report.

Mr. Garner shared a monthly athletic newsletter to staff and board members emails.

7. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

Carrie Fuson asked for an update in regards to a BCHS faculty member. Carrie also expressed her frustrations with comments being mentioned in the community. Carrie shared the board member code of conduct script and asked any board member who could not make unbiased decisions to step down.

Kiley Docherty had questions regarding a BCHS faculty member.

Jennie Ren shared she has compiled a list of construction companies, with CEO contact information, if Mr. Johnson was interested in viewing it.

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Assignment of Personnel Robin LaBuwi made a motion to approve the leave request from Alyssa Mitchell as presented. Jay Copple seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

Jay Copple made a motion to reassign Lucas Roberts from assistant baseball coach to assistant girls track coach for the 2024-25 school year. Mitch Bennett seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

Robin LaBuwi made a motion to approve the maternity leave substitute teacher overload proposal as presented. Jay Copple seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

9.2 Employment of Personnel

9.3 Review/Approve Posting of Open Positions Jay Copple made a motion to authorize the posting of Maintenance/Custodial – Head of Maintenance/Custodial position. Mitch Bennett seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

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9.4 Review/Approve 2024 Tax Levy Resolution Robin LaBuwi made a motion to approve the Tax Levy Resolution as presented. Jay Copple seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried. A copy of this resolution has been attached to and made part of these minutes.

9.5 Review/Approve Resolution to Levy Certain Special Taxes Mitch Bennett made a motion to approve the Resolution to Levy Certain Special Taxes as presented. Robin LaBuwi seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried. A copy of this Resolution has been attached to and made a part of these minutes.

9.6 Review/Approve Resolution (i) transferring county school facility sales tax revenue to the bond and interest fund of said School District and (ii) abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2024 to pay debt service on the General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2020, of the School District Robin LaBuwi made a motion to approve the Resolution (i) transferring county school facility sales tax revenue to the bond and interest fund of said School District and (ii) abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2024 to pay debt service on the General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2020, of the School District. Jay Copple seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried. A copy of this Resolution has been attached to and made a part of these minutes.

9.7 Review/Approve Substitute Pay Rates Jay Copple made a motion to approve the substitute pay rates as presented, effective January 1, 2025. Robin LaBuwi seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

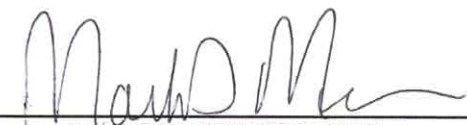
9.8 Review/Approve Bus Lease Proposal Robin LaBuwi made a motion to approve the bus lease proposal as presented. Mitch Bennett seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

10. BOARD OF EDUCATION REMARKS

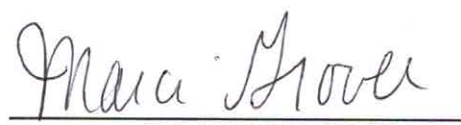
Mitch Bennett complimented the RHG sound system.

Aaron Lewis questioned when the new sub rates went into effect.

11. ADJOURNMENT Jay Copple made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 P.M. Robin LaBuwi seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.



BOARD PRESIDENT



BOARD SECRETARY